



GUIDE TO RECYCLING, YARD WASTE, AND TRASH COLLECTION SERVICES

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



WHAT'S INSIDE

About The Resource Recovery Division // page 1

Weekly Collection Services // page 2

Recycling // page 4

Yard Waste // page 6

Trash // page 8

Household Hazardous Waste & Electronics // page 10

How to Contact Us // page 12



ABOUT THE RESOURCE RECOVERY DIVISION

The City's Resource Recovery Division staff and contractors are part of a larger team that works 24 hours a day, seven days a week to keep our community a livable, green, and prospering city.

OUR CORE SERVICES

- Residential recycling, yard waste and trash collection
- Metal and appliances collection
- Organics composting programs
- Four convenient recycling centers citywide
- Producing and providing wood and leaf mulch free for residents to pickup

RESIDENTIAL REFUSE FEE

Your annual residential refuse fee covers weekly trash and recycling collection, yard waste/brush collection, household hazardous waste center operations, special collections (Spring Clean Up and Leaf Collection) and enhanced recycling programs. This fee is listed on your real estate tax bill and paid semiannually. Additional fees may be required for mulch delivery or bulk/appliance pickup.



In 2008, the City created the Eco-City Alexandria initiative, and adopted an Environmental Action Plan to guide City leaders and residents toward a more sustainable, holistic, and healthy environment. It affirms Alexandria's commitment towards ecological, economic, and social sustainability. The City's Resource Recovery Division, in coordination with residents and businesses, plays a huge role in accomplishing some of the short-term and long-term goals of the Eco-City Action Plan. Learn more at alexandriava.gov/Eco-City or by contacting the City's Office of Environmental Quality at 703.746.4065.



WEEKLY COLLECTION SERVICES

Who is eligible? Alexandria residents living in detached, single-family homes, duplexes, and some townhouses are required users of this fee-based service. Commercial properties and condominium complexes are not required users, but may participate at the City's discretion for a fee.

HOW, WHEN, WHERE

How do I prepare my trash for collection? We encourage you to separate your waste into four types: **recyclables**, **yard waste**, **household hazardous waste**, and **trash**. This allows us to recover natural resources and fuel for energy from your trash. As part of the Refuse Fee, reusable recycling and trash containers are provided. Containers can be requested online through *Call.Click.Connect.** and come in various sizes, and remain the property of the City. For yard waste, we recommend that you purchase a reusable hard-sided container and request a 'Yard Waste Only' decal.

- Recyclables should be placed loose in a blue recycling container;
- Yard waste should be placed in a re-usable hard-sided container or paper yard waste bag;
- Trash should be bagged and placed in a City-provided container.

When do I put out my trash? Each customer is assigned a collection day depending on their location in the City. Contact *Call.Click.Connect.* at 703.746.4357 or visit alexandriava.gov/RefuseCollection for your collection day. Trash and recycling must be set out no earlier than 5 p.m. the day prior and no later than 6 a.m. the morning of collection. Collection crews operate between the hours of 7 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday except during the summer when we start at 6 a.m. for the safety of our crews. In weeks containing a holiday, your collection may slide a day. A holiday schedule is available online.

Where do I place my trash for collection? For most residents, collection occurs in the public right-of-way at the front of the house, although some residents receive alley collection. If you are unsure about where to place your trash for collection, call customer service at 703.746.4357. Collection containers are to be removed from public property by 7 p.m. on your service day.

*See page 12 for information about *Call.Click.Connect.*

YOU MISSED MY COLLECTION!

Your preparation of material for collection is critical for us to recover resources, ensure safe collection, and leave the area neat and clean. If your material is not collected by the end of the day, check for a tag that explains why we could not collect.

COMMON PROBLEMS INCLUDE

- Collection container, bag, or item is too heavy
- Items such as carpet or lumber that are longer than 4 feet
- Trash contains unacceptable items such as construction debris, dirt, brick, and stones (residents should call a private hauler to dispose of these items)

- Dangerous or messy liquids such as gasoline and undried paint
- Trash mixed with recycling

But if there is no tag, use *Call.Click.Connect.*, and we'll be back!

HELP, I AM UNABLE TO TAKE OUT MY TRASH OR RECYCLING!

If you are physically unable to take your trash or recycling to the curb or alley, you may be eligible for an accommodation. If approved, staff will remove trash and recycling from a container that is staged outside your house at a convenient location for you. Call 703.746.4357 to receive an application. This service is not available for yard waste.



RECYCLING

Alexandria's convenient residential recycling service makes it easier than ever to recycle. The Eco-City Alexandria Initiative encourages residents to recycle more, and dispose of trash less. Recycling is environmentally friendly, and less expensive than trash disposal. We are proud that the City's recycling rate is approaching 50% in 2017.

WHAT DO I RECYCLE IN THE BLUE CONTAINER?

RECYCLE - YES!



GLASS



CANS



FOIL



CARTONS



PLASTIC BOTTLES



PLASTIC
CONTAINERS



EMPTY AEROSOL
CANS



CARDBOARD
BOXES



MIXED PAPER



PAPERBACK &
HARDCOVER BOOKS



PIZZA BOXES



FOOD BOXES



RIGID PLASTIC



PREPARATION: RECYCLING HAS GOTTEN EASIER!

No need to remove lids and caps from containers anymore; pizza boxes are ok (just remove the pizza); all paper-based items like orange juice cartons, cardboard boxes, and junk mail envelopes are fine. Just throw them in loose (not bagged).

RECYCLING AT DROP-OFF CENTERS

Can't wait to recycle? The City provides four public drop-off centers for residents and small businesses.

- **Where:**
 - » 1 South Whiting Street
(at the intersection with Tower Court)
 - » 3224 Colvin Street
 - » 4251 Eisenhower Avenue
 - » 910 South Royal Street
(at the entrance to Jones Point Park)
- **When:** 24 hours a day, seven days a week
- **Cost:** Free











WHAT ABOUT RECYCLABLE ITEMS THAT DON'T BELONG IN THE BLUE CONTAINER?

Metal household appliances and large metal items such as outdoor grills, exercise equipment, and chain-link fencing can be recycled. Use Call.Click.Connect. to schedule a pickup (fees apply).

Electronics like computers, TVs, cell phones and small household appliances like vacuum cleaners and blenders are recyclable. Drop them off at the Household Hazardous Waste & Electronics Collection Center:

- **Where:** 3224 Colvin Street (just off Duke Street)
- **When:** Monday from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (except on holidays)
Saturdays from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- **Cost:** Free

RECYCLE - NO!

				
TAKE-OUT CONTAINERS	STYROFOAM	CERAMICS	PLASTIC BAGS	HANGERS
				
GARDEN HOSE	HARDWARE	MOTOR OIL OR ANTIFREEZE	AUTO PARTS	FOOD POUCH

YARD WASTE

Until recently, grass, leaves, brush, branches, and dead plants were overlooked by municipalities as ingredients for making useful products like organic compost and mulch. This resource, referred to as yard waste, is now collected separately from household trash. The City processes this material to create compost or mulch. We collect yard waste by regular collection and by request.

YARD WASTE - REGULAR COLLECTION

Place yard waste into rigid/reusable containers or paper yard-waste bags (purchased at grocery and hardware stores) and put them next to your trash container. Collection occurs on the same day as trash. Residents must provide their own containers and bags. Contact us for decals to identify your yard waste container at 703.746.4357.

PREPARATION

- Place yard waste next to your trash cart in reusable, hard-sided containers or paper yard-waste bags.
- Each bag or container must weigh less than 45 lbs.
- Dirt, sod, stumps, rocks, and stones are not acceptable (arrange for private disposal).
- Material in plastic bags will be thrown away as trash and not composted.

YARD WASTE - YES!



BULKY YARD WASTE - BY REQUEST

Brush, branches, and logs that are too bulky or heavy to fit into a container are collected curbside by request. Staff will collect up to two felled trees at curbside (restrictions apply, see below). Use *Call.Click.Connect.* to schedule a collection day.

PREPARATION

- Collection is available only for logs and branches less than 18 inches in diameter and less than 10 feet long. No tree stumps.
- **Place brush curbside, not in the yard or alley.** Stack large items parallel to the curb.
- Overhead clearance of 25 feet is required (look for power lines and tree limbs).
- Do not mix lumber or construction debris with brush.
- Do not place brush by parked cars; 10 feet of clearance is required.
- Do not stack brush against fixed objects such as poles, posts, fences, walls or buildings.
- Do not block sidewalks.



FALL LEAF COLLECTION

The City's leaf collection takes place from October through December. For more information visit alexandriava.gov/LeafCollection.

CHRISTMAS TREES

Residents who receive City collection may place Christmas trees on the curb on regular refuse days the first two full weeks of January. The trees will be ground into pine mulch.

SPRING LEAF & WOOD MULCH

For a limited time during spring and summer, free mulch is available on a first-come, first-served basis from the City's mulch site (4251 Eisenhower Avenue). The site is co-located with the Eisenhower Avenue Recycling Center.

You may also call 703.746.4357 to schedule mulch delivery during April and May. Delivery is \$50 per load (full or half load). Visit alexandriava.gov/ResourceRecovery for more information.

FOOD WASTE COLLECTION AT FARMERS' MARKETS

Food waste can be dropped-off at week-end farmers' markets for composting into a nutrient rich natural fertilizer. Staff is on-site to answer questions about composting and provide advice on how to reduce food waste. Collection containers are available for sale. For more information, visit alexandriava.gov/FoodWaste.





TRASH SERVICE

After separating recyclables and yard waste, what remains is your household trash. The City of Alexandria collects trash from 20,000 customers each week, gathering about 22,000 tons of trash annually. The trash that we collect is processed into energy! Alexandria disposes of its trash at Covanta Energy's Alexandria/Arlington Waste-To-Energy Facility at 5301 Eisenhower Avenue, which began operation in 1988. This facility turns waste into energy by burning 975 tons of solid waste daily to produce 21 megawatts of energy and power to approximately 20,000 homes. Energy-from-waste is the most environmentally sustainable means of waste disposal following reduction, reuse, and recycling.

TRASH PREPARATION

Your household trash bags should be put into a City-provided trash container and placed curbside (or alley) on your designated day.

WHAT ABOUT THINGS TOO BIG FOR MY TRASH CONTAINER?

Bulky items like sofas, mattresses and non-metal furniture should be donated if reusable, but if they are broken, dirty, or worn out, place them next to your trash container for collection. For metal items, please see the Recycling section for preparation instructions.

SPRING CLEAN UP

Residents who receive City collection can participate in our annual Spring Clean Up Program. This special collection – which occurs on designated Saturdays in the spring – allows residents to clear household clutter by placing unwanted bulky trash items at the curb. Residents receive an informational postcard in the spring.

TRASH - NO!



TRASH DROP-OFF CENTER

The City's Waste-To-Energy Facility includes a residential drop-off available to all Alexandria residents. Residents may drop-off waste once per week. Total weight of trash, debris, or metal must not exceed 500 lbs. per visit. Residents may be asked to provide proof of residency by photo identification or valid City parking sticker on your vehicle. (Unacceptable items include TVs, stumps, rocks, dirt, sand, pressurized cylinders/tanks, construction and building debris, hazardous waste, ammunition/explosives, regulated medical waste and radioactive/geological materials.) Questions? Call Covanta Energy at 703.370.7722.

- **Where:** 5301 Eisenhower Avenue
- **When:** Monday-Friday from 6 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Saturdays from 6 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
- **Cost:** Free

BUILDING MATERIALS, ROCKS & DIRT

Material from home construction projects and landscaping materials such as dirt, rock, and stone are not accepted in the City's collection programs. Hauling and disposal services for shingles, brick, bathroom fixtures, drywall and framing lumber are available commercially. Please consider donating reusable items such as light fixtures and kitchen cabinetry. Contact landscaping companies for the removal of dirt, rock, and stone. These materials can be dropped off for a fee at Alexandria Waste Recovery Facility (not affiliated with the City of Alexandria Government). If you have questionable materials, contact them prior to delivery.



COVANTA ALEXANDRIA/ARLINGTON
WASTE-TO-ENERGY FACILITY



CERAMIC FIXTURES ARE NOT COLLECTED CURBSIDE



HAZARDOUS WASTE & ELECTRONICS

Some household products require special disposal to keep our community safe, our water clean and our air fresh. These products contain harmful chemicals and heavy metals. The City operates a staffed drop-off location open two days a week for these items.

- **Where:** 3224 Colvin Street
(just off Duke Street)
- **When:** Mondays from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (except on holidays)
Saturdays from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- **Cost:** Free



HOUSEHOLD CLEANERS



ELECTRONICS WASTE



FLUORESCENT BULBS



AUTOMOTIVE
CHEMICALS



PAINT SOLVENT



INSECTICIDE



PROPANE TANK



MERCURY SWITCHES



REFRIGERENT GAS



RECHARGEABLE BATTERIES

HOW TO DISPOSE OF...



... latex paint?

Unlike oil-based paint, latex paint is not a hazardous waste and can be disposed of with regular trash. The challenge is getting it from your home to the Waste-to-Energy plant without it leaking from the trash truck. Prior to disposal thicken the paint by adding paint absorbent, kitty litter or shredded newspaper, then replace the lid and seal the can in a plastic bag. Never pour paint down a sink or storm drain!



... prescription medicine?

Unwanted medicine can be safely disposed as regular trash by following this procedure:

- Empty unwanted medicine into a plastic, opaque container with a screw on lid such as a laundry detergent bottle.
- Add coffee grounds or something distasteful to deter ingestion.
- Screw-on the lid and dispose as regular trash.
- Never flush medicine down a toilet or pour down a drain.



... explosives and ammunition?

Fireworks and explosives should be taken to a near-by fire station. Ammunition should be taken to the police department. Please call their non-emergency number to arrange a drop-off. (703.746.4444).



...food oils, fats and grease?

Small amounts can be absorbed with paper towels and thrown away as regular trash. Modest amounts can be poured into a plastic container with a screw-on lid and disposed as regular trash. For larger amounts, consider asking a restaurant manager for permission to empty the oil into their used oil container. Do not pour oils, fats or greases down the sink drain or storm drain.

HOW TO CONTACT US



Call.Click.Connect. is the City's easy to use customer service center and the best and fastest way to communicate with us.

Call 703.746.HELP (4357) or visit alexandriava.gov.



STAY CONNECTED

- Visit the City's website at alexandriava.gov
- Visit the Resource Recovery Division's website at alexandriava.gov/ResourceRecovery
- Watch ALEXtv, Alexandria's Government Cable station on channel 70 or alexandria.gov/ALEXtv
- Subscribe to up-to-the-minute information about the Resource Recovery Division (trash and recycling collection, yard waste, leaf collection, etc.) via eNews at: alexandriava.gov/eNews
- Connect with Alexandria's Transportation & Environmental Services at alexandriava.gov/TES





3 EASY WAYS TO REDUCE WASTE

"Less is better when it comes to trash"



1

Donate or sell unwanted clothing, toys and home furnishings.

2

Use an electronic device to read newspapers, magazines and books.



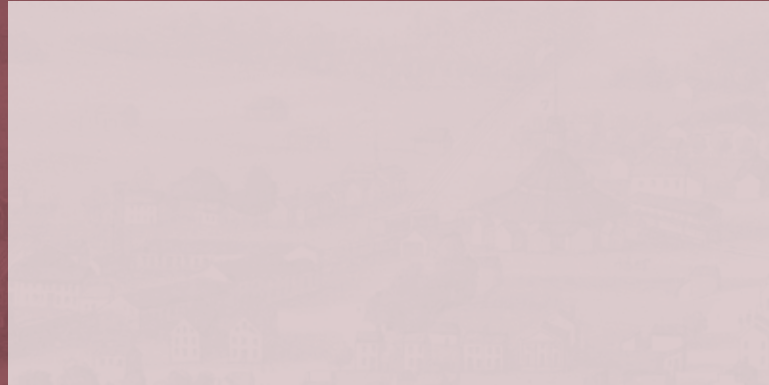
3

Shop with re-usable bags and drink from re-usable cups.



CITY OF ALEXANDRIA
301 KING STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

Presort Standard
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit # 2782
Merrifield, VA



CITY OF ALEXANDRIA
TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
RESOURCE RECOVERY DIVISION

www.alexandriava.gov
www.alexandriava.gov/ResourceRecovery
published 2017

This guide printed on sustainably harvested pulp and recycled paper. FSC 